

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-62 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 6, 9, 16, 17, 18, 24, 28, and 35-51 having been amended by way of the present amendment to correct minor informalities. No new matter is added.

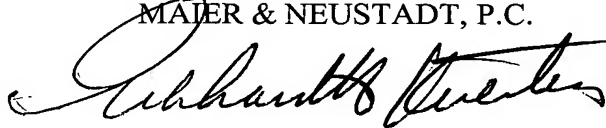
In the Official Action of July 30, 2003, an election of species was requested. As noted previously, Applicants have elected without traverse Species I corresponding to Claims 6-8.

The specification is amended to include material described in the priority Japanese application (Japanese Patent Application 2001-090711) which was incorporated by reference in the pending U.S. application at page 305, lines 5-6. A certified English translation of the relevant portions of the priority Japanese patent application is attached herewith. Thus, no new matter is added. The statement of certification erroneously notes that the entire priority document has been translated whereas only the relevant portions have been translated. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representatives if a corrected statement of certification is required.

Therefore, examination on the merits of Claims 1-62 is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eckhard H. Kuesters", written over the printed name.

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